

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:BSCARLIS:NCLEDSKY

APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

EUR:AAHARTMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172143

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GR

SUBJECT: GRFPK ST TEMENT ON TURKISH AID

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH UNDERSECRETARY SISCO, JULY 21, OSTENSIBLY TO CALL ATTENTION TO DENKTASH'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY (NICOSIA 2266) BUT IN REALITY TO EXPLAIN THE GREEK EMBASSY'S NOON PRESS STATEMENT ON TURKISH AID. THIS EXPLANATION MAY HAVE SEEMED NECESSARY TO ALEXANDRAKIS BECAUSE WHEN GREEK DCM TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT (EUR) THIS MORNING TO PROVIDE ADVANCE INFORMATION ON GREEK PRESS RELEASE, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS INDICATED IN STRONG TERMS THAT EMBASSY STATEMENT WOULD BE VIEWED AS UNHELPFUL AND CONTRARY TO SPIRIT OF CARAMANLIS' STATEMENT TO THE PRESIDENT IN BRUSSELS LAST MAY THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN US LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

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2. TEXT OF GREEK EMBASSY STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT:

"IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION THAT MEMBERS OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN PUT IN SOME DOUBT CONCERNING THE POSITION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON THE RESUMPTION OF ARMS AID FROM THE UNITED STATES TO TURKEY.

"CLEARLY, IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO INJECT MYSELF INTO THE LEGISLATIVE-EXECUTIVE RELATIONSHIPS OF THIS COUNTRY.

"BUT EQUALLY CLEARLY, NO ONE IS AUTHORIZED TO REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE OTHER THAN RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

" IN THIS CONTEXT I WOULD LIKE TO STATE THAT THE POSITION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER IS KNOWN AND HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE THE EVENTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO THAT POSITION HAVE NOT CHANGED." END TEXT.

3. UNDERSECRETARY SISCO EMPHASIZED TO ALEXANDRAKIS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IN EXPLAINING WHY IT FAVORED A LIFTING OF THE TURKISH EMBARGO HAD NOT MISREPRESENTED THE POSITION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. WHAT WE SAID WAS ON THE PUBLIC RECORD IN PAGES AND PAGES OF TESTIMONY. THERE WAS NO BASIS THEREFORE FOR ANYONE TO SAY HE WAS CONFUSED, AND NO NEED FOR THE GREEK EMBASSY TO "CLARIFY" ITS POSITION. MOREOVER, WE FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT CONTINUED IMPASSE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WORKED AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF TURKEY, OF CYPRUS, OF GREECE, AND OF THE US.

4. SISCO REMINDED THE AMBASSADOR THAT CARAMANLIS AND BITSIOS HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMED US THAT WHILE GREECE COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO FAVOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO, GREECE WOULD AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF INTERFERENCE IN OUR LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. WE HAD WELCOMED THIS STATEMENT IN BRUSSELS AND THEREFORE FOUND THE GREEK STATEMENT TODAY AN UNHELPFUL DEPARTURE FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S PREVIOUS POSITION ON THIS MATTER. SISCO ADDED WE VIEW THIS AS A SERIOUS MATTER.
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5. ALEXANDRAKIS' DEFENSE WAS THAT HIS EMBASSY STATEMENT WAS NECESSARY TO COUNTER THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION IN THE HOUSE THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT DOES NOT OBJECT TO LIFTING THE EMBARGO. THE STATEMENT WAS ALSO DESIGNED TO MEET CRITICISM HE WAS RECEIVING FROM ATHENS TO THE EFFECT THAT HIS EMBASSY HAD NOT BEEN ACTIVE ENOUGH IN MAKING KNOWN THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S POSITION.

6. SISCO ASKED THAT THE GREEK AMBASSADOR REPORT TO ATHENS THE STRONG FEELING WHICH HE HAD REGISTERED. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID HE WOULD DO SO.

7. FOR ATHENS: AMBASSADOR KUBISCH SHOULD SEEK APPOINT-

MENT WITH BITSIOS OR APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL FOREIGN
OFFICE OFFICIAL TO RE-EMPHASIZE OUR VIEW THAT STATEMENT
BY GREEK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ISSUED JUST BEFORE HOUSE

VOTES ON WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY CANNOT HELP BUT BE SEEN
AS AN UNHELPFUL INTERFERENCE IN US DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. KISSINGER

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